

Message Text

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64

ACTION EA-09

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P 092154Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1209

INFO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 3 WELLINGTON 1359

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (ROCKEFELLER, NELSON A.)

SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE, APRIL 2, 1976

REF: USIA 9831

1. TEXT OF REMARKS BY THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (NELSON ROCKEFELLER) AND THE PRIME MINISTER (RT. HON. R.D. MULDOON) AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON FRIDAY APRIL 2, 1976:

2. "MR. MULDOON: ..A QUITE BRIEF MEETING WITH THE PRESS, BUT THE VICE PRESIDENT HAS INDICATED HE WILL, TOMORROW MORNING, HAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE AT WHICH HE WILL BE PREPARED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS GENERALLY. WHAT WE HAD IN MIND THIS MORNING WAS SIMPLY TO GIVE YOU A GENERAL OUTLINE OF THE TOPICS THAT WE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING, AND IF I COULD DO THAT FIRST AND THEN LET THE VICE PRESIDENT
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GO A LITTLE FURTHER AND MAKE HIS COMMENTS ON WHATEVER

HE FEELS IS APPROPRIATE, BUT HE FELT THAT HE WOULD LIKE A GENERAL PRESS CONFERENCE TOMORROW MORING TO THAT YOU COULD ASK HIM THE KIND OF QUESTIONS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO PUT TO HIM IN WHATEVER DETAIL YOU MAY FEEL APPROPRIATE. THIS MORNING BOTH PRIVATELY AND WITH CABINET WE HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST, THAT IS TO SAY, THE VICE PRESIDENT'S INTEREST AS WELL AS THINGS THAT ARE OF INTEREST TO OUR TWO COUNTRIES, SPECIFICALLY OUR HEALTH SERVICES, THE HEALTH SERVICES OF THE UNITED STATES, A MATTER IN WHICH THE VICE PRESIDENT IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED, POPULATION QUESTIONS, BACKGROUND OF THAT, MIGRATION, WE FIND THAT WITH DIFFERENT LEVELS OF SCALE WE HAVE GOT SOMEWHAT SIMILAR PROBLEMS IN THOSE AREAS. WE TALKED ABOUT THE COMMITTEE FOR CRITICAL CHOICES, THE NEW ZEALAND COUNTERPART, THE COMMISSION FOR THE FUTURE, AND SOME BRIEF DISCUSSIONS ON INTERNATIONAL LABOR QUESTIONS, THE I.L.O., THE AMERICAN ATTITUDE TO THE I.L.O. WHICH YOU KNOW IS SOMEWHAT HARD AT THE PRESENT TIME. I THINK, MR. VICE PRESIDENT, THAT ABOUT COVERS THE MATTERS THAT WE TALKED WITH IN CABINET, EXCEPT THE VICE PRESIDENT GAVE US A GENERAL RUNDOWN ON THE PRESENT POSITION IN THE UNITED STATES AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT AFTER THE VERY DIFFICULT TIMES THAT THEY HAVE BEEN THROUGH THE COUNTRY IS NOW LIKELY TO ACHIEVE, FOLLOWING THIS YEAR'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION AND THE CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS THAT GO WITH IT, A GREATER DEGREE OF COHESION, POLITICAL STABILITY AND HE HAS INDICATED HIS VIEW OF THE AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATION WHICH IS SO IMPORTANT TO US IT IS LIKELY TO BE MAINTAINED AND STRENGTHENED.

3. "MR. VICE PRESIDENT...(VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER): WELL MR. PRIME MINISTER I'M DELIGHTED WITH THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH THIS DISTINGUISHED GROUP HERE AND WOULD LIKE TO JUST SAY THAT I HAVE COME HERE WITH THE MOST TREMENDOUS ENTHUSIASM HAVING WANTED TO VISIT NEW ZEALAND ALL MY LIFE, AND TO COME UNDER THIS MOST FAVORABLE CIRCUMSTANCE, A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME, AND I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO THE PRIME MINISTER FOR HIS HOSPITALITY AND THE OPPORTUNITY FOR CONVERSATIONS, FRANK CONVERSATIONS, WE'VE HAD AND ALSO WITH

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THE MEMBERS OF THE CABINET. VERY INTERESTING AND IMPRESSIVE TO ME. I BRING WITH ME THE GREETINGS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WHO HAVE A TREMENDOUS RESPECT FOR AND AFFECTION FOR NEW ZEALAND, AND THE PEOPLE OF NEW ZEALAND. THEY FEEL A COMRADESHIP THROUGH COMMON ORIGIN AND VERY SIMILAR EVOLUTION IN OUR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC POLITICAL LIFE. I WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE OPPORTUNITY OF TALKING

WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND WITH THE MEMBERS OF HIS CABINET ABOUT PROBLEMS WHICH BOTH OF US FACE, AND THE INTERESTING THING TO ME IS THEY ARE VERY SIMILAR, AS I SAID YOU JUST ADD A COUPLE OF ZEROS ON THE FIGURES AND YOU'VE GOT IT FOR US THE SAME, THEY ARE ABSOLUTELY THE SAME. AND THOSE OF US WHO DEEPLY BELIEVE IN FREEDOM AND THE DIGNITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL, QUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY IN OUR NATIONS, BOTH FOR THE NATION AND THE INDIVIDUALS WITHIN THE NATIONS, I THINK WE BENEFIT TREMENDOUSLY FROM THE KIND OF OPEN EXCHANGE AND MUTUAL CONFIDENCE.

4. "OBVIOUSLY WE ARE GOING TO DISAGREE ON DIFFERENT QUESTIONS, BUT OBVIOUSLY WE HAVE A COMMON INTEREST IN THE BASIC VALUES AND PRESERVATION OF OUR OWN FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE. AS WINSTON CHURCHIL SAID THAT MAYBE THE MOSE INEFFICIENT SYSTEM IS DEMOCRACY BUT THERE IS NONE BETTER, AND I FEEL VERY STRONGLY ABOUT THAT MYSELF. BUT I KNOW THAT JUST FROM THE BRIEF BUT VERY EXCITING AND INTERESTING CONVERSATIONS WE'VE HAD THAT WE CAN BENEFIT TREMENDOUSLY FROM YOUR EXPERIENCE AND YOUR PROGRAMS. AND AS THE PRIME MINISTER MENTIONED IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH WHICH IS ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT WE FACE, YOUR EXPERIENCE--AND I'VE BEEN INTERESTED IN THIS SUBJECT FOR 15-20 YEARS, NO MORE THAN THAT AS A MATTER OF FACT, I WAS ON THE LOCAL HEALTH BOARD OF WESTCHESTER COUNTY IN 1931 SO THAT'S A LITTLE

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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P 092154Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1211
INFO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS SECTION 3 OF 3 WELLINGTON 1359

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

10. "PRESS: (INAUDIBLE). MR. MULDOON: WELL IF I COULD JUST THROW ONE IN, SOME CURIOUS ATTITUDES OF CERTAIN PEOPLE IN THIS FIELD OF NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIPS AND A TENDENCY TO CONFUSE IT WITH OTHER THINGS WITH WHICH IT SHOULD NOT BE CONFUSED, SUCH AS THE USE AND CARRYING NUCLEAR WEAPONS, BUT MUCH MORE TO IT THAN THAT. I THINK YOU CAN IMAGINE WHAT I WAS TALKING TO THE VICE PRESIDENT ABOUT, THE KIND OF THING WE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING HERE IN RECENT WEEKS. ANOTHER CURIOUS THING, BUT OVER THE YEARS FROM THE TIME WALTER NASH FIRST INVITED THE UNITED STATES TO SEND A NUCLEAR SUBMARINE TO NEW ZEALAND AND IT'S ONLY JUST TO THE LAST YEAR OR SO THAT THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME CAMPAIGN TO CAUSE US TO TAKE AN ATTITUDE THAT'S INCONSISTENT WITH OUR ANZUS OBLIGATIONS. THAT KIND OF THING.

11. "PRESS: MR. VICE PRESIDENT IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED ON THIS QUESTION OF THE ANZUS ALLIANCE, THAT IF NEW
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ZEALAND DIDN'T FULFILL ITS OBLIGATIONS (INAUDIBLE).
VICE PRESIDENT: REASONABLE MILITARY WHAT? PRESS:
MILITARY PRESENCE I SHOULD SAY NOT AREA. IF THIS NOT PERMITTED THEN A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF POLITICAL PRES-
SURE WITHIN AMERICA, A SUBSTANTIAL WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN INTERESTS IN THE PACIFIC. WOULD YOU SEE THIS AS HAPPENING? VICE PRESIDENT: NO, I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU GOT THAT IDEA. I HAVEN'T HEARD THAT DISCUSSED. WE HAVE THE CLOSEST MOST INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS, AND I CAN'T CONCEIVE OF THE THING YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT BECOM-
ING A REALITY AND THEREFORE NOBODY HAS DISCUSSED WHAT WOULD BE DONE IF IT WERE TO BECOME A REALITY.

12. "PRESS: "PRESS: IF NEW ZEALAND WERE TO SAY, PROHIBIT AMERICAN NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIPS FROM COMING HERE, WOULD YOU SEE A POLITICAL THREAT WITHIN THE UNITED STATES...WRITE OFF NEW ZEALAND, WRITE OFF THE PACIFIC, WRITE OFF ANZUS? VICE PRESIDENT: WELL I'LL TELL YOU, I NEVER CROSS BRIDGES UNTIL I GET TO THEM. AND THAT'S AN IFFY QUESTION WHICH TO ME IS TOTALLY UNRELATED TO

REALITY AND THEREFORE WHY WASTE OUR TIME SPECULATING
ON IT. MR. MULDOON: I THINK MR. VICE PRESIDENT IF
YOU'VE BEEN BRIEFED ON THIS, AND MAYBE I'M REMISS IN
NOT BRIEFING YOU ON THIS, YOU WOULD REALIZE THAT SOME
OF THE ISSUES THAT WE HAVE DISCUSSED THERE ARE RIGHT
IN THIS AREA, AND INDEED SOME OF THE ISSUES THAT WE
HAVE DISCUSSED WITH MEMBERS OF YOUR ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS IN THIS ROOM A MONTH OR TWO
AGO, WERE RIGHT IN THAT AREA AND THEY WERE LOOKING,
AS ALL THESE GENTLEMEN KNOW, AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THE
VAST SUMS THAT HAVE BEEN VOTED FOR DEFENSE ARE BEING
VOGED IN AN AREA WHERE IT'S WORTHWHILE. AND THIS
IS THE QUESTION THESE GENTLEMEN.... VICE PRESIDENT: WELL
I'D RATHER DISCUSS ALL THIS STUFF TOMORROW IF YOU
DON'T MIND."
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